GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1149
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2002
RELEASE OF FUNDS
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds released to States are not reaching the State Agriculture Development Department within 15 days of their release;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether funds have not been fully utilized in on-going schemes in crops and horticulture sector;

(d) if so, the unspent amount lying with the States as on date; and

(e) the steps taken to strengthen the monitoring mechanism at the Centre to ensure that funds released to States reach within a time-limit?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): The central assistance reaches to States Finance Department throughInter Government Adjustment Advice issued by the Pay & Accounts Office, through the Central Accounts Unit of Reserve Bank of India at Nagpur. The Agriculture Department in the State Government obtains approval of Competent Authority for sanction of the Scheme and release of funds. Thereafter, fund is disbursed to the implementing agencies by the Department of Agriculture of the State Government.

(c) & (d): Under the Macro Management Scheme covering crop and horticulturesector, an amount of Rs.631.22 crores was released during the year 2001-02. This is in addition to Rs.194.34 crores available with the States as unspent balances of the previous year. As on 1.4.2002 an amount of Rs.236.07 crores has been lying unspent with the States Under the Scheme.

(e): In order to ensure expeditious release of funds to the State Agriculture Department, a special cell has been created in the Office of CCA at Krishi Bhavanfor the receipt of Sanction Orders regarding release of central assistance to the States/UTs. The Pay and Accounts Office are sending Inter Government AdjustmentAdvise to the RBI through Speed Post to avoid delay in release of funds. Monitoring of the Implementation of the Schemes is also done regularly by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.